

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling access to a network by a wireless client, the method comprising:

assigning a network address to the wireless client, wherein the network address has a lease period;

sending the assigned network address to the wireless client prior to establishing a secure link;

establishing the secure link using the assigned network address; and

sending an address of a wireless access point to the wireless client, wherein the wireless access point is adapted to handle the secure link established by the wireless client.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned network address and the wireless access point address are sent to the wireless client in a DHCP offer packet.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the secure link is an IPSEC tunnel.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned network address is sent to the wireless client via the wireless access point.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the address of the wireless access point that is sent to the wireless client comprises an IP address and a MAC address.

6. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

7. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 2.

8. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 3.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to a network by a wireless client, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a network address from the wireless client at a network access point;

attaching at the network access point information to the request to indicate that the request originated from a wireless client;

relaying the request to the address server;

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receiving an assignment of an address from the address server, the address having a lease time;

relaying the assignment of the address to the wireless client;

negotiating the establishment of a secure link with the wireless client using the assigned address; and

using the assigned address to communicate with clients via a wireless access point.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

broadcasting an ARP packet to check whether there are any other clients having the same assigned address of the wireless client; and

if a response to the ARP packet is received, terminating the negotiation, thereby denying the wireless client access to the network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

in response to the negotiation, creating an ARP entry that maps the assigned address of the wireless client to a MAC address of the wireless client.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the request is a DHCP discover packet, the method further comprising: inserting data into an optional field of the packet to indicate that the packet was received from a wireless client; and relaying the packet to the address server.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a renewal request packet having a request for a renewal of the lease time from the wireless client;

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if the secure link is successfully negotiated with the wireless client, inserting data into an optional field of the renewal request packet to indicate that the renewal request packet was received from a wireless client; and

relaying the renewal request packet to the address server.

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 12.

20. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 13.

21-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the assigned network address having the lease period is sent to the wireless client prior to authentication of the wireless client.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the lease period is of a duration that is sufficient for the wireless client to establish a secure link with the wireless access point and send a renewal request of the assigned address via the secure link.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of extending the lease period of the assigned network address to a

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predefined duration if the wireless client establishes a secure link with the wireless access point and requests a renewal of the assigned address via the secure link.

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